

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

NR Eligible: yes
no X

Property Name: Taylorsville House Inventory Number: AA-66

Address: 3048 Riva Road City: Riva Zip Code: 21040

County: Anne Arundel USGS Topographic Map: South River

Owner: Peter T and Maybelle Kou

Tax Parcel Number: 23 Tax Map Number: 50 Tax Account ID Number: 2000-9002-5317

Project: Wetlands Permit #200362201/T62207 Agency: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Site visit by MHT Staff: no x yes Name: Patricia Blick Date: March 2003

Eligibility recommended Y Eligibility **not** recommended

Criteria: X A B X C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

Is the property located within a historic district? X no yes Name of district:

Is district listed? no yes Determined eligible? no yes District Inventory Number:

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Anne Arundel County Site Files AA-66

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

The Taylorsville House, historically the John W. Davis House, is located on a small lot on the south side of the South River, almost immediately southwest of the Riva Road Bridge. Its sits on a small (.32 acre) lot on a bluff overlooking the South River. Built c. 1860, the Taylorsville House is a 2-story, three-bay, single-pile, vernacular frame dwelling with a c. 1940 2-story rear ell. A standing seam metal roof covers both sections. Eaves are slightly overhanging and feature partial cornice returns. An exterior brick fireplace projects from each end. The chimney stacks project above the roofline at the gables' peaks. The original block retains its original plain cedar weatherboards. The rear ell is also treated with 1940s weather boards. The principal entrance is centered on the front façade and is protected by a projecting, gable-roof portico. The door is original and features applied segmentally arched and rectangular door moldings. Windows consist of wooden 6/6 types in the front block and 1/1 in the rear ell. The former appear historic but not original.

The building's interior is altered. Surviving original finish includes the open string stair case with walnut rail, balusters and newel post. Doors also appear original though surrounds have been removed, as have the fireplace mantles. The common rafter roof features circular saw marks and fully developed machine cut nails. The upstairs provides information on the date of construction. During the course of repairs a portion of the interior wall finish was removed exposing painted script in the inside of the exterior weatherboards.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended

Eligibility not recommended X

Criteria: A B C D

Considerations: A B C D E F G None

Comments:

[Signature]
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

[Signature]
Reviewer, NR program

6/17/03

Date

6/20/03

Date

200301933/200302145

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Continuation Sheet No. 1

AA-66

The painting, expressing an obvious pro-Confederate political sentiment, reads:

Jeff Davis
and the south
J. W. Kalmey
October 23, 1862

As Oct 23, 1862 is not associated with a significant Civil War action, the date is attributed to the building's construction.

Three cemeteries are located immediately adjacent to this property. One is the private cemetery of the John W. Davis Family. It is badly overgrown and partially vandalized. The Davis cemetery is located on a separate parcel from the house, but the same person owns both lots. Immediately south of the Davis cemetery is a private, active cemetery belonging to the Galloway Family. The Galloway cemetery, containing graves dating from the 1930s, is located on the site of a former Methodist Episcopal Church. The Galloway cemetery land also contains a number of older graves associated with the former church. These include the graves of the Peach Family who lived in the Taylorsville House in the late 19th and early 20th century.

The Taylorsville House was built for, and probably by John W. Davis (1811-1886). According to the 1870 census, Davis was a carpenter. J. W. Kalmey, whose name is written inside the house, probably refers to Jeremiah Kalmey who is listed as a painter in the same census. Modest in size and simply appointed, the Taylorsville house is significant as very intact and relatively uncommon surviving example of a late antebellum Anne Arundel County working class dwelling. The dwelling is also significant as the oldest surviving building from the 19th century village of Taylorsville.

Now known as Riva, the village of Taylorsville developed in the mid-19th century following the establishment of a ferry and steamboat landing. Prior to the development of Taylorsville, the area was mostly farmland. The 1847 Bache Map, which shows a bridge, not a ferry, at this location indicates the presence of only a few scattered houses in the immediate vicinity. The dwelling's proximity to a ferry and steamboat landing made it convenient for Mr. Davis, a carpenter, to receive lumber and stock building supplies both for use in his business and in the construction of his own house. The availability of milled and manufactured elements had a profoundly altered the way rural buildings were constructed and decorated. The Taylorsville House is emblematic of this change.

Taylorsville appears on the Hopkins Atlas of 1860. This map shows one house on the right side of Riva Road. While it is identified as the residence of John Davis, its location is somewhat too far north to be the subject property. The 1878 Atlas of Anne Arundel County shows a more developed area, including 8 buildings on the west side of Riva Road. The property associated with Davis on this resource more closely coincides with the location of AA-66. The date in the building's attic, combined with the map evidence, points to 1862 as the construction date though an earlier date.

By 1878 Taylorsville was at, or possibly past its zenith. The construction of a new bridge across the South River in the location the present-day Rt. 2 bridge, diverted traffic away from the Taylorsville crossing. The community fell into a slow decline that accelerated in the 20th century as the automobile became the chief mode of transportation and steamboat service was discontinued. The 1907 USGS shows only 5 buildings in Taylorsville. The primacy of the Rt. 2 Bridge crossing in emphasized by the 1918 motion by the Anne Arundel County Commissioners to discontinue ferry service from Taylorsville and improve the road connecting Taylorsville and the South River Bridge. The Taylorsville house is one of only two surviving 19th century Taylorsville dwellings.

Prepared by: Sherri Marsh

Date Prepared: May 2003

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Continuation Sheet No. 3

AA-66

Taylorsville House (AA-66) camera facing west



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Continuation Sheet No. 4

AA-66

Taylorsville House (AA-66) detail from exposed weather boards inside attic.
It reads:

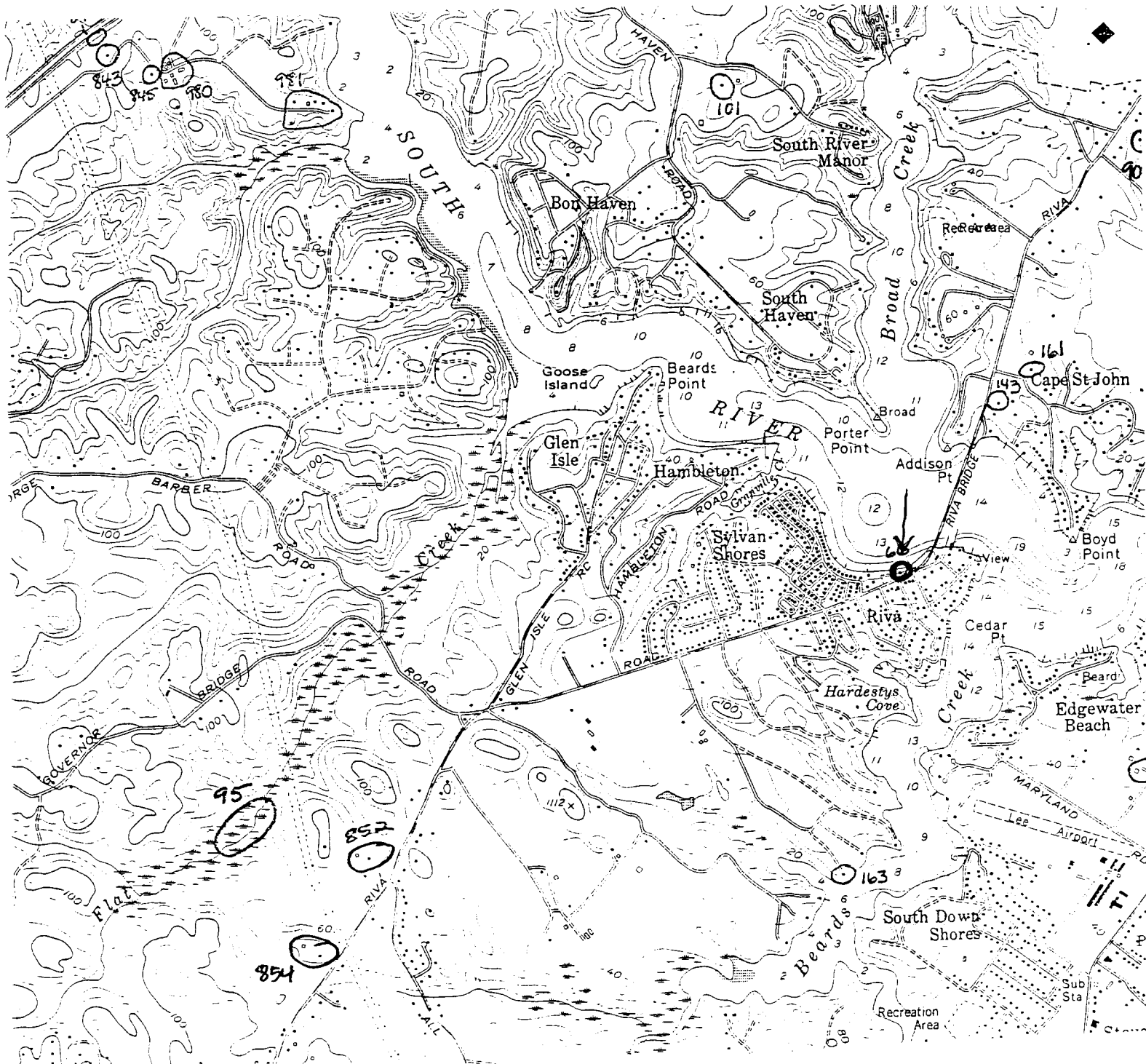
Jeff Davis
and
the South
J.W. Kalmy
Oct 23
1862



MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
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Continuation Sheet No. 2

AA-66



South River Quad
USGS 7.5 minutes series
Scale 1:24,000
1957, photorevised 1979

Site # AA-66 (Taylorsville House)
3048 Riva Road, Riva, Maryland

Prepared by: Sherri Marsh

Date Prepared: April 2003